

NEWS

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BOARD APPROVES PLAN TO EXPAND ADELANTO JAIL

SAN BERNARDINO — The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today authorized an expansion of the Adelanto Detention Center that will more than double the capacity of the High Desert jail.

“Maintaining the safety of the residents in our county is my number one responsibility and number one priority. Because of insufficient capacity, the Sheriff has been forced to release inmates back into our neighborhoods. That’s unacceptable. These inmates need to be kept behind bars,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus.

The design for the expansion of the jail includes the construction of four new housing units in an effort to maximize the use of County-owned land at the Adelanto site. This proposal was determined to be the most cost-effective choice of several proposals studied by the county. Design costs for the project are estimated at \$4.6 million. The total project cost is expected to be \$86.0 million. Construction should begin in approximately one year. When complete, the expansion will include the addition of 107 full-time jobs at the jail.

Each housing unit will accommodate approximately 224 inmates, for a total of 896 additional pre-trial jail beds. The County’s current bed capacity is 5,932, including the 724 beds currently at Adelanto.

While the addition of the ADC in January 2006 has helped alleviate jail overcrowding, the County’s jail population frequently exceeds capacity limits thus requiring the Sheriff to release non-violent inmates from custody.

“I support expanding our Adelanto facility because it not only increases bed capacity in the county, but should also shorten the time it takes deputies to book arrestees, allowing them to spend more time on patrol,” said Supervisor Gary Ovitt. “The time it takes deputies to book arrestees in the High Desert should be cut at least in half. Approving this item is the equivalent of putting three to four additional deputies in the field.”

The lack of adequate booking facilities in the High Desert requires deputies to frequently book arrestees at West Valley Detention Center, a process that takes an average of five hours. More than 1,900 High Desert arrestees have been booked at WVDC in the past 12 months.

Expansion at ADC is more cost effective than other options due to infrastructure that is already in place, such as kitchen, laundry, transportation, maintenance and administration. These changes will significantly reduce the number of arrestees that are currently transported to West Valley Detention Center for booking, and will allow for more inmates with difficult classifications to be housed at ADC if they are required for High Desert court appearances.